BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1970

and incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. BARLOW, M.B.,Ch.B.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
BRIERFIELD,
Lancashire.

May, 1971.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the
Brierfield Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration, the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

It includes various matters which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
A. BARLOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1970 according to the Rate Book was 2,889, the rateable value being £188,736 and the sum represented by a penny rate of £740.

Social conditions were generally quite good. There was no serious unemployment. The main industry is cotton. Other manufactories include bottle tops and plastics.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1970 is 7,340.

BIRTHS

138 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1970, 65 males, 73 females. Of these, seven, 5 males and 2 females, were illegitimate. Crude rate per 1,000 home population, 18.8.

Two still births were recorded. Rate per 1,000 total births, 14.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Total Live Births.	138	135	121	125	95
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estim.population.	18.8	18.5	16.6	17.2	13.0
Adjusted Rate	20.9	20.5	18.4	19.1	14.5

Four deaths occurred of infants under one year, the infant mortality rate being 29 per 1,000 live births.

Previous Infant Mortality rates:-

1969	1968	1967	1966	1965
30	NIL	8.0	NIL	30.9

The Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under four weeks per 1000 live births) was 14 per 1000 live births.

The early Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under one week per 1000 total live births) was 14.

The Perinatal mortality rate, stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1000 total live and still births was 29.

DEATHS

103 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1970 as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths within the Urban District.	22	31	53
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	29	21	50
	51	52	103

Death Rate (Deaths per 1000 home population - crude rate) 14.0

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following table:-

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Total Deaths.	103	88	88	109	90
Crude Death Rate per 1000 estim. population.	14.0	12.1	12.1	13.6	12.4
Adjusted Rate	14.0	12.5	12.2	13.9	12.5

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1970.

Cause of Death at different periods of life during 1970.

Columns for the ages 1-4 yrs; 5-14 yrs; 25-34 yrs., have been ommitted as no death occurred in these age groups.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all Ages.	U/4 Wks	1/12 to 1	Age in years					
					15-24	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & Over.
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach.	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	4	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leukaemia	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Avitaminoses, etc.	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hypertensive Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	25	-	-	-	1	7	7	3	7
	F	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	4
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
	F	9	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4
Other diseases of Circulatory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	M	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of Digestive System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all Ages.	U/4 Wks.	1/12 to 1	Age in years 15-24	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & Over
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
All other Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	51	-	-	3	1	9	12	9	17
	F	52	2	2	-	1	4	6	16	22

TUBERCULOSIS

There has been an increase in the numbers on the register during the year. There were two additional pulmonary cases and two non-pulmonary.

CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1970.

On the Register at the end of December, 1970, there were 24 cases of Tuberculosis (17 Pulmonary and 7 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	Over 65	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	7	-	2	3	1	3	17
Non-Pulmonary	2	-	2	2	-	1	-	7
	3	7	2	4	3	2	3	24

All these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer and no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE: The Urban District is served by ambulance and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE: The Infant Welfare Clinic for the Urban District is held weekly.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE: There is one District Midwife assigned t Brierfield who resides within the Distri

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	Per 1,000 Estimated Population	
	Crude Live Birth Rate	Crude Death. Rate
Mean of five years 1965-1969	15.72	12.98
Year 1969	18.5	12.1
Year 1970	18.8	14.0
Increase or decrease in 1970 on 5 years average 1965-1969	+3.08	+1.02
Change on Previous Year	+0.3	+1.9

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES	Age Groups								
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25 & Over
Measles	74	2	9	3	12	7	39	1	-	1
Whooping Cough	9	1	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor J. Edmondson.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Rawlinson.

Councillors: Mrs. Arnold, Brown, Clegg, Gregory, Mrs. Hodge, Marsh, Greenwood, Nolan, Miss Sunner and Sutcliffe.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. Arthur Barlow, M.B.,Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector: John S. Haworth.
Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B.
R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of Meat and Other Foods, Smoke Inspector, Sanitary Science, etc.

Duties: All matters coming within the purview of a Public Health Inspector including supervision of refuse collection.
Appointed as Officer under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.
Appointed as an Officer under the Shops Act by the County Council.

WATER SUPPLY: Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of the North Calder Water Board and there were no new sources of supply during the year. All dwellinghouses within the District except one, are supplied direct from public mains. The one exception, which is supplied by spring water, is an isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable distance from the nearest public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES: The number of houses supplied direct from public mains is 2,968.

WATER SAMPLING:

Public Mains: The water was sampled frequently by the Board's Officers and found to be satisfactory. Two samples taken by the Department were also found to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS: There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL: The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks. The effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle Water.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION:

Number of Privy Middens: NIL.

Number of Pail Closets: There are five only, two of them at isolated dwellings, the other three on the golf course. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2,637

Number of Waste Water Closets. 480

Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets	NIL
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets	34
Number of houses on water carriage system	2,966

Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action of the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwellinghouses which require hot water, baths and other amenities.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by direct labour, with a 50 cu.yd. Eagle Crushload vehicle. Refuse is collected weekly from domestic premises, shops, factories etc., twice weekly from fish shops etc., and disposed of at the Nelson tip by arrangement with the Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins - 3,245.

INSPECTIONS MADE	1969	1970
Number of complaints received and investigated (not including complaints re refuse collection service)	296	322
Number of complaints received and dealt with re refuse collection service and blocked street gullies	68	21
Number of requests for additional collections	554	598
Visits to Smoke Control Area	939	693
Sanitary accommodation etc., in factories and workshops	34	27
Bakehouses	9	10
Unfit Food	15	3
Food preparation premises (not bakehouses)	113	149
Complaints/re-visits	586	539
Infectious Diseases Enquiries/Food Poisoning	7	9
Public Sanitary Accommodation	25	20
Council Houses	17	19
Water Supplies	17	19
Housing Act, Inspections.	55	74
Outworkers	4	5
Interviews Owners etc.	36	47
Rats/Mice	46	96
Other Infestations	23	4
Noise Nuisances	1	6
C.S.R.P. Act	58	59
Shops Acts	273	358
Schools	4	4
Refuse Accumulations, Tips, Dustbins	610	574
Drains Tested	28	20

INSPECTIONS MADE (Cont.)	1969	1970
Informal Notices Served	138	149
Informal Notices Remedied	102	143
Formal Notices Served	24	25
Formal Notices Remedied	24	17

DISINFESTATION. Complaints were received of infestation by cockroaches from 18 dwellinghouses. These were treated by a servicing firm. Complaints of caterpillars, wasps, bugs and fleas were also dealt with. The bugs/fleas were dealt with by spraying and fumigation.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936 and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951 The two establishments registered under this Act were maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

HOUSING

CONDITION. Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows and semi-detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year sixty houses were completed by private enterprise.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year, and none was proved. The situation in some of the houses occupied by Pakistanis is somewhat obscure.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts. 107

   b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made. 304

   c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 27

2. Total number of dwellings existing at the end of year which were unfit for human habitation, and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit and in respect of which -

   a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 10

   b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made 3

REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR

a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 15

b) Houses in which defects were remedied (other than unfit houses made fit). 62

CLOSURES

Unfit houses closed. 2

HOUSING ACT 1969 - STANDARD GRANTS

Action during the year	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
Submitted to and approved by Loc.Auth.		
To Full Standard.	63	63
Work completed.	41	41

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors is as follows:-

a) Dairies in the District 3
b) Premises outside the District 7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies 26

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1969 was as follows:-

Type of Business	Number
General Grocers	20
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	11
Bakers	6
Confectioners	2
Fried Fish Shops	5
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	6
Licensed Hotels/Clubs	15
Snack Bars etc.	2

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given at the bottom of the page.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Number of factory chimneys in the District	6
Observations taken during the year	6
Smoke nuisances discovered	2

The four Smoke Control Orders were suspended towards the end of the year. No.5 Area which includes 64 Council owned flats/houses/bungalows, 829 private dwellings, 3 commercial premises, 1 lock-up shop and seven other premises will come into force in 1972.

There have been continued complaints about smoke from incinerators at two factories and a considerable amount of work was done in an endeavour to overcome the nuisance.

RODENT CONTROL

The sewer manholes were treated.

The following properties were treated:-

Properties treated following notification and found to be infested by:-	a) Rats	25
	b) Mice	120
Properties inspected for reasons other than notification.		46

In addition, the Council's properties (tips and buildings) were regularly inspected and baited.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Regist.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not incl. in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	26	27	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	26	27	-	-

2. DEFECTS. No defects were found.

3. OUTWORKERS. Sections 110 and 111. The notified Outworkers were visited. Conditions were satisfactory.

COMMENT

GENERAL.

Again it must be said that abandoned vehicles have continued to cause difficulties and notwithstanding the Council's considerable efforts to remove beds, furniture etc., the problem of "dumpers" remains.

Joint meetings have continued to be held with neighbouring authorities in an endeavour to overcome tipping problems.

A seperate report was issued on the operation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act and is reproduced below.

Records under the Factories Act continue to need attention although complete inspections were made.

Reports of Rats, mice and cockroaches are referred to the Pest Control section of Rentokil Laboratories Ltd. Prompt attention is given to all complaints. This form also undertakes the sewer treatments.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

The number of premises on the register shows little change on the previous year.

One new office premise was added to the list during the year when an Estate Agent moved into Brierfield from Burnley.

One retail shop was added, a change of ownership resulting in a change from self employed to employee. One shop closed and at three others assistants ceased to be employed.

Due to a change of Licensee one catering establishment was placed on the list. Handrails were provided to cellar steps at these premises. The only accident reported during the year concerned a fall at the foot of a main staircase, and since the carpeting etc., was in excellent order, no action was deemed necessary.

One premise inspected late in the year had deficiencies in the first aid kit but no difficulty is anticipated in getting this back to standard.

SMOKE CONTROL.

No.5 Area submitted in 1969 will come into force in 1972. Work on conversions in this area continues. The first four orders were temporarily suspended late in the year due to fuel shortage.

The number of premises in the five areas is as follows:-

No.1 223, No.2 270, No.3 258, No.4 281, No.5 863.

HOUSING.

Undertakings have been accepted in respect of some of the houses closed after action under the Housing Act, but a few remain, gradually getting worse and causing grave dissatisfaction to the neighbours. The Council is not unmindful of the situation and towards the end of the year plans to deal with some of these properties were in hand.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The improvement mentioned in the 1968 report due to the use of the new vehicle has continued. Collection is much quicker and there has been a considerable reduction in the number of complaints of failure to empty bins.

The refuse collecting vehicle now collects from the shops on Fridays replacing the open wagon formerly used for this purpose. This was the result of a "Productivity" deal and appears to be satisfactory.

In 1966, there were 375 complaints of failure to empty bins, in 1967, 241: in 1968, 151: in 1969, 42: in 1970, 27. Some of these complaints are due to bins being improperly used for heavy builders refuse, some to the use of tubs without handles and to defective dangerous bins. Such receptacles are now reported and action is taken to ensure the provision of a standard bin in good order.

The Council continues, at considerable expense, to remove unwanted articles. This service is not always appreciated and even though for the most part it is free, people continue to dump unwanted furniture and other unwanted material in most difficult places. A similar statement has been made in previous years and it is unfortunate that it must be repeated.

In 1966, there were 537 requests for additional collections, in 1967, 424: in 1968, 578: in 1969, 554: and in 1970, 598.

CONCLUSION.

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff, the Engineer to the Water Board, the Cleansing Department Nelson and the staff of the County Council's Brierfield Clinic is here gratefully acknowledged.

J. S. HAWORTH,

Public Health Inspector.

May, 1971.